

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending.

Claims 10-41 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are rejected.

Claim 4 is objected to.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 1 is currently amended.

Claims 3-6 and 11-41 are canceled.

No new matter is added.

Claims 1-2 and 7-10 remain in the case for consideration.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in light of the above arguments and following remarks.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I species IA-1 and IB-1 in the reply filed on October 24, 2005, is acknowledged. Claims 11-41 stand withdrawn as non-elected responsive to a restriction requirement and are hereby cancelled without prejudice for presentation in a divisional application.

Interview Summary

Responsive to the office communication, dated February 23, 2006, please accept the following statement regarding the substance of the telephonic interview between Examiner Anita K. Alanko and Hosoon Lee, initiated by Hosoon Lee on March 10, 2006. In the communication, the Examiner attached an English translation of KR 2002-90452, cited in the IDS and mentioned by the office action dated January 12, 2006.

Applicant's attorney Hosoon Lee indicated that the prior art reference KR 2002-90452A does not teach or disclose the patentable subject matter recited in claim 4. The Examiner and Applicant's Attorney were in agreement. Applicant's attorney amended claim 1 to read, "prior to etching *the dielectric layer*, to further clarify the patentable subject matter as suggested by the Examiner. (Emphasis added)

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**Allowable Subject Matter**

Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging this allowable subject matter. As described above, the Applicants have amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claims 3 and 4 as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yu U.S. Patent No. 6,531,358 ("Yu") in view of Chien U.S. Patent No. 5,861,331 ("Chien"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 3 and 4. In amended form claim 1 is directed to an etching method. The method comprises:

- providing a wafer having a dielectric layer and an electrode partially protruding from a top surface of the dielectric layer;
- etching the dielectric layer with a chemical solution; and
- prior to etching, reducing the protruding portion of the electrode, wherein reducing the protruding portion includes recessing a top surface of the electrode at least 500 angstroms below the top surface of the dielectric layer.

In particular, claim 1 has been amended to specify that reducing the protruding portion includes recessing a top surface of the electrode at least 500 angstroms below the top surface of the dielectric layer. As mentioned below, the Examiner has indicated that the claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the claims from which it depends. Thus, because amended claim 1 includes all of the limitations of claims 3 and 4, the Applicants submit that claim 1 is now in allowable form.


Claims 2 and 7-10 depend from claim 1. As claim 1 is in proper form for allowance, claims 2 and 7-10, based at least on their dependency, are likewise in proper form for allowance.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**Conclusion**

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-2 and 7-10 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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